

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed February 12, 2001. In order to advance prosecution of this Application, Applicant has responded to each issue raised by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, further examination, and favorable action in this case.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 15, 21-23, and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing "subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention." In particular, the Examiner was unsure where there was "clear support" in the originally-filed Application for the "limit on the threshold voltage signal" produced by a threshold voltage generator.

Applicant respectfully notes that Claim 16 as originally filed recited that the threshold voltage signal produced by the threshold voltage generator is "less than 500 millivolts." (*Page 19, lines 22-23*). Also, Claims 15 and 20 as originally filed recited that the threshold voltage signal is "less than 50 millivolts." (*Page 19, lines 19-20; Page 20, lines 7-8*). Further, Claim 23 as originally filed recited that the threshold voltage signal is "less than 10 millivolts." (*Page 20, lines 18-19*). In addition, Applicant's specification states that the voltage of the threshold voltage signal may be determined using the formula $E(R2)/(R1+R2)$, where E represents the voltage of local power source 40, R1 represents the resistance of first resistor 60, and R2 represents the resistance of second resistor 62. (*Page 15, lines 1-17*). The specification then gives one example embodiment using a three volt power supply for local power source 40, a three megaohm resistor for first resistor 60, and a 6.8 kiloohm resistor for second resistor 62. In this example, the threshold voltage signal is approximately 6.8 millivolts. (*Page 15, lines 1-17*).

Applicant respectfully notes that the claims as originally filed are "part of the disclosure." (*M.P.E.P. § 2163.06*). Based on the claims as originally filed and Applicant's specification,

Docket No.:
065446.0115

PATENT APPLICATION
09/258,974

3

Applicant's disclosure as originally filed contains adequate support for Claims 1 and 21 which recite "less than 500 millivolts," Claims 26 and 27 which recite "less than 300 millivolts," Claims 15 and 28 which recite "less than 50 millivolts," and Claim 23 which recites "less than 10 millivolts." (*See, e.g., M.P.E.P. § 2163.05(III) entitled "Range Limitations"*).

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and full allowance of Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 15, 21-23, and 25-29.

Docket No.:
065446.0115

PATENT APPLICATION
09/258,974.

4

CONCLUSION

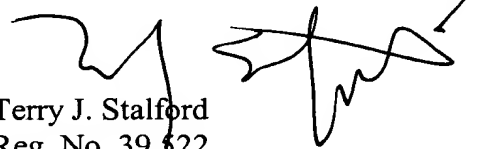
Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this case, Terry J. Stalford stands willing to conduct such a telephone interview at the convenience of the Examiner. Mr. Stalford may be reached at 214-953-6477.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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